



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 6456***

*January Session, 2003*

***AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL MALPRACTICE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The chairpersons and ranking  
2       members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
3       having cognizance of matters relating to public health, the judiciary  
4       and insurance shall appoint a task force to conduct a study of the  
5       current system of medical malpractice and its impact on access to  
6       quality medical care. The chairpersons and ranking members of said  
7       committees shall appoint such members of said joint committees as  
8       wish to serve on the task force.

9       (b) The task force shall make recommendations for legislation and  
10      regulations based upon a review of research into: (1) Factors that may  
11      cause physicians to limit access to care, including, but not limited to,  
12      availability and cost of medical malpractice insurance; (2) the costs and  
13      benefits of the current tort system in providing redress and  
14      encouraging improvements in health care; (3) comprehensive reforms  
15      to the medical malpractice system that will (A) improve availability of  
16      medical liability insurance coverage, (B) reduce or stabilize medical  
17      liability premium rates, and (C) ensure continued patient access to  
18      health care; (4) the impact on health care spending arising out of  
19      concerns about medical malpractice liability; and (5) the costs and  
20      benefits of mandatory error reporting, the use of clinical protocols and

21 other means of managing health care that have been proven to  
22 improve results for patients.

23 (c) The task force shall review research that includes, but need not  
24 be limited to, research performed by governmental agencies and by  
25 national public and private organizations.

26 (d) On or before January 1, 2004, the task force shall report, in  
27 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
28 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
29 matters relating to public health, insurance and the judiciary,  
30 regarding the recommendations arising out of the study performed  
31 pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*